

REMARKS

The Office Action mailed on September 4, 2008 has been received and its contents carefully considered. Additionally attached to this Amendment is a Petition for a Three-month Extension of Time, extending the period for response to March 4, 2009.

In this Amendment, Applicants have amended claims 1, 12, 14 and 15. Claims 3-11, 17 and 18 have been cancelled, and claim 21 has been added. Claims 1 and 21 are the independent claims, and claims 2, 12-16, 19 and 20 are pending in the application. For at least the following reasons, it is submitted that this application is in condition for allowance.

The Office Action objects to claims 6 and 11 for informalities.

Claims 6 and 11 have been cancelled. It is thus submitted that the objection is rendered moot.

The Office Action rejects claims 5, 7 and 12 under 35 USC 112 as being indefinite.

Claims 5 and 7 have been cancelled. Claim 12 has been amended. Amended claim 12 recites that "the first insert hole of the first guiding member has an inner peripheral surface that includes a fitting portion and a loosely fitting portion", and the corresponding first power transmission member is fixed by being press-fit into the fitting portion of the first insert hole, which clarifies how the first

power transmission member is fixed when fit into a hole with a play. It is thus submitted that the rejections should be reconsidered and withdrawn.

The Office Action rejects claims 1-12 and 16-18 under 35 USC 102(b) as being anticipated by Triller (JP 2002242994).

Claim 1 has been amended. Amended claim 1 is directed to a power transmission chain that includes a plurality of first guiding members and second guiding members, which are provided, respectively, at each end of a pair of end portions of a corresponding connecting member, and cooperate to prevent falling off of the corresponding connecting member and corresponding links. A first guiding member is shaped like a disc and includes a first insert hole at the center, to which a corresponding first power transmission member is fixed and into which a corresponding second power transmission member is fit with a play. Similarly, a second guiding member includes a second insert hole, to which a corresponding first power transmission member is fixed and into which a corresponding second power transmission member is fit with a play. The first and second guiding members are separated from each other.

In contrast, *Triller* discloses a link plate chain that uses a U-shape position hold-down member 30 to hold the cradle pins 12 and 14. The hold-down member 30 has two through-holes 36, and each through hole 36 holds a pair of cradle pins 12 and 14. Each through hole 36 has two lobes 40, each on a side of the through hole 36, which seizes the notch 38 of cradle pins 12 and 14, so as to fix the cradle pins 12 and 14. However, *Triller* does not disclose separated, disc-shaped first

guiding members and second guiding members, which, respectively, are disposed at each of a pair of end portions of a corresponding connecting member. *Triller* also fails to disclose that each first or second guiding member includes an insert hole, to which a corresponding power transmission member is fixed and into which another corresponding power transmission member is fit with a play.

Therefore, *Triller* does not disclose or suggest all of the limitations of claim 1. Amended claim 1 thus cannot be rendered unpatentable by the cited reference.

Claims 3-11, 17 and 18 have been cancelled. Claims 2, 12 and 16 ultimately depend from claim 1. Therefore, they are patentable over the cited reference for at least the same reasons advanced above as to the patentability of claim 1. It is thus submitted that the rejection should be reconsidered and withdrawn.

The Office Action rejects claims 13 and 19 as being unpatentable over Triller in view of Van Rooij (US patent 5,728,021), rejects claim 14 as being unpatentable over Triller in view of Van Rooij, and further in view of Kanehira (US patent 6,432,011), and rejects claims 15 and 20 as being unpatentable over Triller in view of Baumann (US patent application 2002/0,068,654), all under 35 USC 103(a).

Claims 13-15, 19 and 20 ultimately depend from claim 1. In addition, none of *Van Rooij*, *Kanehira* and *Baumann* teaches or suggests the features missing with respect to the patentability of claim 1. Therefore, they are patentable over the cited references for at least the same reasons advanced above as to the

patentability of claim 1. It is thus submitted that the rejection should be reconsidered and withdrawn.

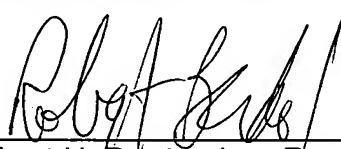
A new independent claim, claim 21, also has been added. Claim 21 has limitations similar to those discussed above with respect to claim 1. It is thus submitted that claim 21 should be patentable for the same reasons as claim 1.

Based on the above, it is submitted that this application is in condition for allowance and such a Notice, with allowed claims, earnestly is solicited.

Should the Examiner feel that a conference would help to expedite the prosecution of this application, the Examiner is hereby invited to contact the undersigned counsel to arrange for such an interview.

The amount of \$ 1,110.⁰⁰ is attached as payment of the Three-month Extension of Time, by way of credit card form PTO-2038. Should the remittance be accidentally missing or insufficient, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge the fee to our Deposit Account No. 18-0002, and advise us accordingly.

Respectfully submitted,



Robert H. Berdo, Jr. – Reg. No. 38,075
RABIN & BERDO, PC
Cust. No. 23995
Facsimile: 202-408-0924
Telephone: 202-371-8976

MAR 03 2009

Date

RHB/HZ

AMENDMENT

10/591,638